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Message Text

SECRET

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11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 /063 W
---------- 047238
O P 221009Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4287
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CNO PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY
CINCPACREPPHIL PRIORITY
13TH AF PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANILA 5546

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MARR
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY AND SEPARATELY ADVISED BY GEN ESPINO AND BY SINGAPORE EMBASSY THAT FOREIGN OFFICE WILL DELIVER TO US TODAY OR TOMORROW A DIPLOMATIC NOTE FORMALLY ENDORSING A-4 TRAINING IN PHILIPPINES FOR SINGAPORE PILOTS.

2. TECHNICAL TEAM FROM SINGAPORE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHILIPPINES APRIL 25 TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF PROJECT WITH GOP AND SINGAPORE EMBASSY IS PRESSURING US FOR APPROVAL FOR TEAM TO VISIT AND INSPECT CUBI AS
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A POSSIBLE TRAINING SITE.

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3. DURING WASHINGTON AND CINCPAC VISITS, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT HASTY ACTION ON THIS SINGAPORE REQUEST. FIRS, THERE IS THE NEED TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHAT WE WILL NEED IN THE WAY OF P-3 FACILITIES IN SINGAPORE, SO THAT WE WORK OUT THE BEST RECIPROCAL PACKAGE. SECOND, THERE WILL BE THE REQUIREMENT THAT WE GET IRON-CLAD ASSURANCES FROM SINGAPORE THAT THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT UNDERCUT US ON STATUS OF FORCES BY ACCEPTING LESSER TERMS ON SUCH MATTERS AS JURISDICTION THAN WE DO. THIRD, THERE IS THE TROUBLING RECENT NEWS THAT THE SINGAPORE AIR FORCE WILL RECEIVE A NEW BATCH OF OFFICERS FROM TAIPEI TO MAN THESE AIRCRAFT. THE IMPLICATIONS OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA PILOTS IN SINGAPORE AIRCRAFT ON U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE SOMEWHAT ADDLING.

4. IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE SINGAPORE TEAM AND THE POLITICAL IMPRACTICALITY OF TRYING TO STONEWALL ITS ACCESS TO CUBI, WE PROPOSE TO ALLOW THE TEAM ON THE BASE FOR A LOOK AROUND BUT TO LIMIT OUR DISCUSSION WITH THEM TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND TO MAKE NO RPT NO COMMITMENTS.

5. SUGGEST DEPT UNDERTAKE TO ESTABLISH SOME GENERALIZED GUIDANCE FOR THIS ENTIRE EXERCISE, TO INCLUDE SOME VERY DETAILED TALKS WITH SINGAPOREANS ABOUT THE THREE ITEMS RAISED IN PARAGAPH 3. SINCE IT MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL TO DETERMINE THE P-3 REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THAI ATTITUDES ON U-TAPAO OPERATIONS ARE CLEARER, THIS MAY MEAN SOME DELAY BEFORE WE CAN MOVE IN ANY SIGNIFICANT FASHION ON THESE PROPOSALS. SULLIVAN

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